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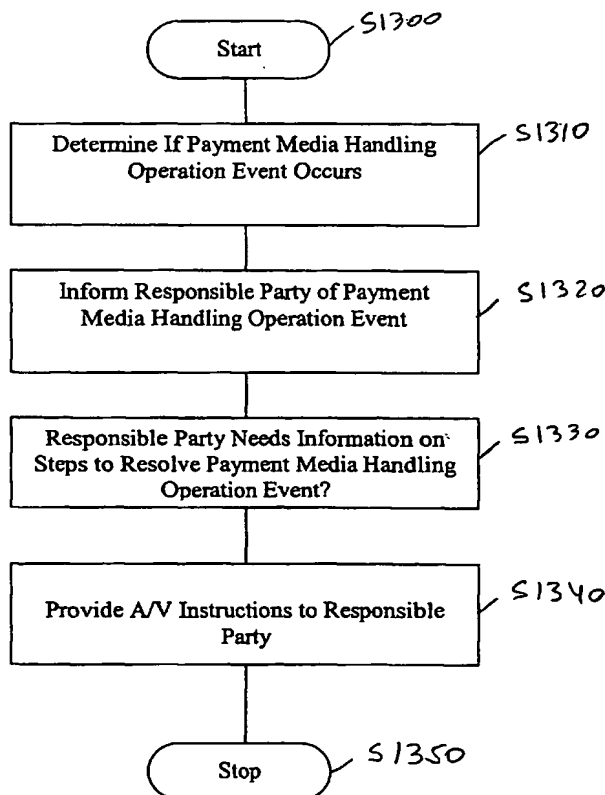
(72) Inventors; and  
(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): **HURWITZ, Harlan, Arthur** [US/US]; 9 Irene Court, River Edge, NJ 07661 (US). **KAUTSCH, Stewart, A.** [US/US]; 113 Feronia Way, Rutherford, NJ 07070 (US). **MURPHY, Brendan, Kevin** [US/US]; 139 Sherman Avenue, Cedar Grove, NJ 07009 (US). **PICKLES, Robert** [US/US]; 1357 Danielle Court, Chesapeake, VA 23320 (US). **WOBSER, Daniel, M.** [US/US]; 935 Woodlane Road, Jackson, NJ 08527 (US). **TAYLOR, Darren** [GB/GB]; 4 Cottesmore Way, Wellingborough NN8 3LD (GB).

(74) Agents: **OLIFF, James, A. et al.**; c/o Oliff & Berridge PLC, P.O. Box 19928, Alexandria, VA 22320 (US).

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(57) Abstract: This invention provides systems and methods that minimize or remove human intervention during the payment media handling process on the shop floor, in the back office and at the cash-in-transit place. By automating processes and providing physical, tamper evident secure means for transporting the payment media, it is possible to limit, if not remove, the need for retail staff to handle payment media. This invention also provides systems and methods that enable the retailer to count, reconcile and prepare the payment media in a format that is acceptable to the commercial banks. This invention further provides systems and methods for a secure audit trail that detail payment media movement from the payment media originating source to the bank.

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